

Birds from Bintang Island in the Rhio Archipelago

By F. N. CHASEN

Pulau Bintang is the largest island in the Rhio Archipelago. Its nearest point is twelve miles from the eastern corner of Johore at the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula and although of irregular shape it may be said to be contained in a thirty mile square.

The island has been visited by zoological collectors on several occasions and although odd notes on its birds are included in a number of papers no account or list of its avifauna has ever been published.

Dr. W. L. Abbott made a collection of birds there in 1902, but it remains in the United States National Museum unstudied in detail.

Another small collection was made by Messrs. H. C. Robinson and E. Seimund of the Federated Malay States Museums Department in 1908, but again no list of the birds was published and they are now either incorporated in the general collection in the Raffles Museum, or no longer in our possession. By searching through the registers of the Selangor Museum we have been able to compile and append a list of birds obtained on various islands of the Rhio Archipelago during the 1908 visit.¹

The present collection was made by three native collectors of the Raffles Museum who visited the island for three weeks in May and June, 1930. Mr. H. Baker, a rubber-planter resident on the island, was kind enough to receive the men and generally facilitate their work. The birds obtained are mostly species common to the lowlands of the southern part of the Malay Peninsula and the central east coast of Sumätra. *Columba argentina* Bp., and *Piprisoma squalidum sordidum* Rob. and Kloss, are uncommon in collections. A few species including *Psittacula longicauda*, *Dissemurus paradiseus* and *Aplonis panayensis* run rather large on the island, thereby approaching the large races occupying the Anamba or Natuna Islands in the south China Sea. In the case of *Psittacula longicauda* the Bintang race seems identical with the undescribed large form found in the North Natuna Islands. We have also referred the Bintang race of *Aplonis* to a form described from the Anamba Islands. The existence on the island of two species of *Batrachostomus* and a trogon is interesting.

TRERONIDAE

Treron curvirostra curvirostra (Gmel.) 4 ♂, 2 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 135, 135, 137, 140; ♀ 135, 139 mm.

Treron fulvicollis fulvicollis (Wagl.) 7 ♂, 4 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 146, 147, 150, 152, 148, 141; ♀ 148, 143, 146, 150 mm.

We cannot separate females of *fulvicollis* from those of *baramensis* Meyer, of northwest Borneo.

One of the males listed above has the two outer primaries in each wing white.

The average wing-length of the Bintang series is high.

Treron vernans griseicapilla Schleg. 6 ♂, 3 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 140, 150, 145, 146, 145, 145 (imm.); ♀ 139, 147, 139 mm.

¹ The birds of the Rhio Archipelago were listed by Dr. K. W. Dammerman in "Treubia", viii, 1926, p. 319: This author also gives a list of literature (p. 325) to which can be added.—C. Boden Kloss, "Some visits to Batam Island", Journ. Straits Br. Roy. Asiat. Soc., 50, 1908, p. 61; and F. N. Chasen, "Notes on the Fauna of Pulau Galang, Rhio Archipelago, Journ. Malayan Br. Roy. Asiat. Soc., 3, 1925. p. 92.

Treron olax (Temm.) 3 ♂ (1 imm.); 1 ♀.
Wings. ♂ 125, 128; ♀ 124 mm.

Ptilinopus jambu (Gmel.) 1 ♂.
Wing. 143 mm.

Ducula aenea aenea (L.) 15 ex.

The wing range of the males is 238—247 mm. and that of the females 229—237 mm.

COLUMBIDAE

Columba argentina Bp. 1 ♀.
Wing. 232 mm.

Streptopelia chinensis tigrina (Temm.) 1 ♂, 2 ♀.
Wings. ♂ 141; ♀ 140, 140 mm.

FALCONIDAE

Haliastur indus intermedius Gurney. 1 ♂, ♀ 1.

BUBONIDAE

Ketupa ketupa ketupa (Horsf.) 1 ♂.

Ninox scutulata malaccensis (Eyton) 1 ♂, 1 ♀.
The small resident race.

PSITTACIDAE

Psittacula longicauda subsp. 4 ♂, 2 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 155, 157, 165; ♀ 156, 152 mm.

Like that from the North Natuna Islands the Bintang race is large.

Psittinus cyanurus cyanurus (Forst.) 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Loriculus galgulus galgulus (L.) 2 ♂.

PODARGIDAE

Batrachostomus stellatus (Gould) 1 ♂.

A pale bird in colour agreeing with one of the same sex from Pahang.

ALCEDINIDAE

Ramphalcyon capensis malaccensis Sharpe. 1 ♀.

We do not consider that *hydrophila* Oberh. described from Singapore Island is separable from *malaccensis* the type locality of which is Malacca.

Alcedo meninting verreauxi De la Berge. 1 ♂.

Halcyon coromanda minor Temm. and Schleg. 1 ♀.

BUCEROTIDAE

Hydrocissa coronata convexa (Temm.) 5 ♀ (2 imm.).

Birds from the various islands of the Rhio Archipelago have small casques and should perhaps be separated subspecifically.

MEROPIDAE

Merops viridis viridis L. 5 ♂.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Caprimulgus macrurus bimaculatus Peale. 1 ♂, 3 ♀.

MICROPODIDAE

Hemiprocne longipennis harterti Stres. 4 ♂, 3 ♀.

Hemiprocne comata comata (Temm.) 1 ♂.

TROGONIDAE

Harpactes duvauceli (Temm.) 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

CUCULIDAE

Surniculus lugubris brachyurus Stres. 1 ♀.

The small resident race.

Hierococcyx fugax fugax (Horsf.) 1: ♀ 1 juv. ♂.

The juvenile was certainly bred on the island.

Penthoceryx sonnerati fasciolatus (S. Müll.) 1 ♀.

The dark Sumatran form which is also found in Singapore Island.

Rhopodytes sumatranus (Raffles) 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Chrysocolaptes lucidus chersonesus Kloss. 3 ♂.

Wings. 153, 154, 156 mm.

Mulleripicus pulverulentus pulverulentus (Temm.) 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

EURYLAIMIDAE

Eurylaimus javanicus harterti van Oort. 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Eurylaimus ochromalus ochromalus Raffles) 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

HIRUNDINIDAE

Hirundo javanica abbotti (Oberh.) 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

MUSCICAPIDAE

Muscitrea grisola subsp. 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

In spite of our large series we find ourselves at present unable to divide this species into races (our reasons are given in full in Bull. Raff. Mus. IV, 1930, p. 51). A revision based on very extensive material is required.

Hypothymis azurea prophata Oberh. 4 ♂, 2 ♀.

Terpsiphone paradisi affinis (Blyth) 1 ♂.

In the chestnut phase.

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Coracina sumatrensis sumatrensis (S. Müll.) 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings. ♀ 154 mm. The male is so skinned that an accurate wing measurement cannot be taken, but it would certainly not be less than 160 mm.

PYCNONOTIDAE

Aegithina viridissima viridissima (Bp.) 2 ♂, 2 ♀; 1 ♂ imm.

Iolo olivacea olivacea Blyth 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

Alphoixus phaeocephalus phaeocephalus (Hartl.) 3 ♂.

Pycnonotus goiavier personatus (Hume) 2 ♀.

Pycnonotus plumosus plumosus Blyth. 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

Pycnonotus simplex simplex Less. 3 ♂, 1 ♀.

TIMALIIDAE

Aethostoma rostratum rostratum (Blyth) 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

Malacopteron cinereum cinereum Eyton. 4 ♂, 4 ♀.

Anuropsis malaccensis malaccensis (Hartl.) 5 ♂, 5 ♀.

Stachyris maculata (Temm.) 5 ♂.

Mixornis gularis gularis (Horsf.) 12 ♂, 11 ♀.

TURDIDAE

Copsychus saularis musicus (Raffles) 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

Kittacincla malabarica subsp. 1 ♀.

SYLVIIDAE

Orthotomus atrogularis atrogularis Temm. 3 ♂, 1 ♀.

Orthotomus ruficeps ruficeps (Less.) 2 ♂, 3 ♀.

LANIIDAE

Hemipus hirundinaceus (Temm.) 1 ♀.

DICRURIDAE

Dissemurus paradiseus platurus (Vieill.) 5 ♂, 6 ♀. 11 exs.

Wings of adults. ♂ 155, 154, 147, 148; ♀ 158, 146, 146 mm. The average wing-length of 149 mm. is rather high for this race.

STURNIDAE

Gracula javana javana (Cuv.) 5 ♂, 3 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 177, 177, 183, 174, 184; ♀ 181, 178 mm.

Aplonis panayensis heterochlorus (Oberh.) 3 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 106, 103, 103; ♀ 98 mm.

PLOCEIDAE

Munia atricapilla sinensis Blyth. 5 ♂, 3 ♀.

Passer montanus malaccensis Dubois. 1 ex.

Much darker than any other member of this race we have seen.

MOTACILLIDAE

Anthus richardi malayensis Eyton. 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

NECTARINIIDAE

Aethopyga siparaja siparaja (Raffles) 5 ♂, 5 ♀.

Leptocoma brasiliensis brasiliensis (Gmel.) 11 ♂, 3 ♀.

Leptocoma jugularis ornata (Less.) 3 ♂, 1 ♀.

Anthreptes malacensis malacensis (Scop.) 8 ♂, 6 ♀.

Arachnothera chrysogenys chrysogenys Temm. 2 ♂, 2 ♀.

DICAEIDAE

Prionochilus percussus ignicapillus (Eyton) 1 ♂.

Piprisoma squalidum sordidum Rob. and Kloss 2 ♂.

Dicaeum trigonostigma trigonostigma (Scop.) 7 ♂, 6 ♀.

F. N. CHASEN

APPENDIX

Birds obtained in the Rhio Archipelago in 1908 by Messrs.
H. C. Robinson and E. Seimund.

<i>Treron curvirostra curvirostra</i> (Gmel.)	Bintang.
<i>Treron vernans griseicapilla</i> Schleg.	Battam.
<i>Treron olax</i> (Temm.)	Battam.
<i>Ducula aenea aenea</i> (L.)	Karimon.
<i>Columba argentina</i> Bp.	Karimon.
<i>Myristicivora bicolor bicolor</i> (Scop.)	Karimon.
<i>Rallina fasciata</i> (Raffles)	Kundur.
<i>Esacus magnirostris scommophorus</i> Oberh.	Bintang.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus peroni</i> Schleg.	Bintang.
<i>Numenius phaeopus variegatus</i> (Scop.)	Bintang.
<i>Ardea sumatrana sumatrana</i> Raffles	Bintang.
<i>Polioaetus ichthyaetus</i> (Horsf.)	Battam.
<i>Ninox scutulata malaccensis</i> (Eyton)	Battam, Karimon.
<i>Psittacula longicauda</i> (Bodd.)	Bintang.
<i>Psittinus cyanurus cyanurus</i> (Forst.)	Kundur.
<i>Batrachostomus affinis</i> Blyth	Bintang.
<i>Ramphalcyon capensis malaccensis</i> Sharpe.	Bintang; Battam; Kundur.
<i>Ceyx rufidorsus</i> Strickl.	Kundur.
<i>Lacedo pulchella pulchella</i> (Horsf.)	Bintang.
<i>Hydrocissa coronata convexa</i> (Temm.)	Pulau Merah, south-west of Karimon.
<i>Chaetura gigantea gigantea</i> (Temm.)	Karimon, Kundur.
<i>Hemiprocne longipennis harterti</i> Strese.	Battam.
<i>Dryobates moluccensis moluccensis</i> (Gmel.)	Battam.
<i>Dinopium javanense javanense</i> (Ljungh)	Bintang, Battam.
<i>Pitta megarhyncha</i> Schleg.	Bintang, Karimon.
<i>Cyornis rufigaster rufigaster</i> (Raffles)	Bintang.
<i>Mixornis gularis gularis</i> (Horsf.)	Bintang.
<i>Copsychus saularis musicus</i> (Raffles)	Pulau Tulang, south of Kari- mon.
<i>Aplonis panayensis heterochlorus</i> (Oberh.)	Bintang, Battam.
<i>Munia atricapilla sinensis</i> Blyth	Pulau Sauh, Rhio Straits.
<i>Anthreptes malaccensis malaccensis</i> (Scop.)	Bintang.
<i>Zosterops palpebrosa williamsoni</i> Rob. and Kloss.	Kundur.



Termitarium in Mangrove forest containing Kingfisher's nest.